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(54) Title of Invention: Automatic Binding Vending Machine

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Specifications

1. Title of Invention

Automatic Binding Vending Machine

2. Scope of Patent Claims

This invention is configured with a database, a retrieval function, an operations instruction function, a printing and binding function, a book output function, and a currency insertion slot.

The database contains filed information on character image information data from both full text and abstracts of bibliographical items from various products including novels, essays, and autobiographies.

The retrieval function retrieves the desired abstract from the database and displays the information on the display screen.

The operations instruction function is used to input instructions for printing and binding abstracts and for inputting various conditions for that printing and binding.

The printing and binding function receives instruction signals from the operations instruction function and prints the said product according to the various conditions input during the operations instruction function. The printing and binding function then binds the printed product.

The book that has been bound by the printing and binding function is output by the book output function.

The invention is equipped with a currency insertion slot that is coupled with a control function for controlling each of the above configuration elements.



When the specified fee is input into the currency insertion slot, the abstract displayed on the screen can be automatically made into a book form and output. These are the primary characteristics of the automatic binding vending machine.

3. Detailed Explanation of Invention

<< Technical Field of Invention>>

This invention is an automatic binding vending machine that uses an automatic vending system. To be more specific, the customer can read various abstracts of products such as novels, essays, and autobiographies on the display screen and can then select the desired product. Next, the customer can input instructions for printing and binding, after which the said product is printed and bound according to the instructions input by the customer. The product is then output in book form. The invention thus pertains to technology for automatic binding vending machines.

<<Background of Invention>>

In recent years, consumer spending in Japan has been remarkable. This coupled with technical innovations and the expansion of the information society, has put the consumer's market in a trend away from basic and standard items towards that of consumption that enables diverse options, individualism, and self-expression. This trend is emerging with readers as well in the purchase of books, etc. Furthermore, the expansion of printing technology and of material control technology such as document information and image information through computerized databases has also been remarkable.

Thus, it became apparent that a device that skillfully combines the above printing technology and material control technology to provide books that meet the diverse needs of readers was needed. If such a device could bind the customer's desired book on the spot and could be placed in store fronts or along streets, and was such that general lovers of books could freely utilize the device, that device would be very convenient. Furthermore, such a device would serve to further improve the intellectual lifestyle of our society. Thus, the development of this type of device was strongly desired.

<<Objective of Invention>>

This invention meets the conditions described above. The primary objective of this invention is to provide an automatic binding vending machine that can bind and output books according to customer's requests. After the customer has input the specified fee and pressed the remeval key for the desired product, the abstract of the product corresponding to that retrieval key is displayed on the display screen. After the customer has read the abstract, if he or she desires to bind that product, the customer can press the next desired operation instruction key. When this is done, the said abstract is printed and bound according to the instructions input by the customer and then output in book form.

<< Configuration and Effects of Invention>>

In order to meet the above objective, this invention is configured with a database, a retrieval function, an operations instruction function, a printing and binding function, a book output function, and a currency insertion slot. The database is configured of filed text image information data from both full text and abstracts of various bibliographical products such as novels, essays, and autobiographies. The retrieval function retrieves the desired abstract from the database and displays it on the display screen. The operations instruction function is used to print and bind abstracts retrieved and displayed via the retrieval function and to input instructions for various printing and binding conditions. The printing and binding function receives instruction signals from the operations instructions function and prints the said product in accordance with the previously mentioned conditions, and then binds the printed product. The book output function outputs the book bound by the printing and binding function. The invention is also equipped with a currency insertion slot that is coupled with a control function for controlling each of the above configuration elements. When the prescribed amount of money is input into this currency insertion slot, the abstract displayed on the display screen is made into book form and automatically output.

With this invention that is configured with the above described elements, the customer can read various abstracts displayed on the display screen, and can then freely output in book form only those products that meet his or her needs. Thus, this automatic binding vending machine matches fully the new era that has emerged in recent years that calls for free selection and purchase of books according to customers' passions and desires. This invention contributes to book purchasing that enables individuality and self-expression by lovers of books. Furthermore, this invention also greatly contributes to improvements in the intellectual lifestyle of our society.

This invention enables the creation of Deluxe Books to meet the varied needs of customers. With this invention, customers can select the Deluxe Type mode to enable the input of various conditions including B5, A4 paper size, etc., the font size and style, the paper and cover material, and the cover type, etc. For example, customers can purchase books in standardized size collections. Thus, the invention greatly benefits the storage and consolidation of libraries for book collectors.

<<Working Examples of Invention>>

Figure 1 is an outline diagram of one working example of an automatic binding vending machine that pertains to this invention. In Figure 1, when the customer inputs money (paper and/or coin) into the (1) Currency Input Slot, an amount equivalent to the money inserted is displayed on the (2) Input Currency Display. After visually confirming this display, the customer operates the (3) Retrieval Keyboard, and an abstract of various products including novels, essays, and autobiographies is displayed on the (4) Display Device such as a CRT in accordance with the operations made by the customer. When the customer inputs binding instructions, the prescribed printing and binding fee for the product corresponding to the said abstract is displayed on the (5) Printing and Binding Fee Display. Through these displays, the customer is able to know the essential points of various products and the fees for printing and binding. If the customer then desires to output the book form of the desired product, he or she inputs additional funds to satisfy the printing and binding fees for the said product into the (1) Currency Input Slot. The total of these additional funds plus the initial funds input is displayed on the (2) Input Currency Display. After confirming that this total satisfies the previously mentioned printing and binding fee, the customer implements necessary operations on the (6) Operation Instructions Keyboard. Then, the said product is printed and bound according to the instructions input by the customer, and the product is output in (7) Book form through the (8) Book Output Slot. Monetary change resulting after the transaction is settled is output through the (9) Change Return Slot.

As shown in Figure 2, this automatic binding vending machine controls each configuration element via a (10) microprocessor (hereafter referred to as a CPU). In other words, all parts are coupled to and controlled by the (10) CPU. The (11) Currency Calculator, the (12) Output Mechanism, and the (14) High Speed Printer used in the printing and binding function, the (13) Binding Device, and the (15) Database to be described later, etc. are all coupled to the CPU. The (11) Currency Calculator is coupled to the (1) Currency Input Slot, the (2) Input Currency Display, and the (5) Printing and Binding Fee Display. The (12) Output Mechanism is coupled to the previously described (3) Retrieval Keyboard, the (6) Operation Instructions Keyboard, the (4) Display Device, and the (8) Book Output Slot. Thus, all parts are coupled and controlled by the (10) CPU. Each part is controlled based on commands from the (10) CPU.

Database (15) is used to store various necessary information for the automatic binding vending machine. Text image information data from both full text and abstracts of various bibliographical items (title, author, etc.) of novels, essays, and autobiographies is filed in the (15) Database. Fixed fees prescribed in advance for printing and binding Standard Type books are stored in the (15) Database. This database also contains fees stored for calling abstracts of each product necessary for printing and binding Deluxe Type books. Various conditional data for binding and printing Deluxe Type books is also filed in the (15) Database. These conditions include binding size, text size and style, and cover material and cover type, and the fees vary in accordance with designated selections.

Standard Type shall mean printing with a predetermined font type and size on ordinary quality paper. Thus, the format for printing and binding Standard Type books is done with a predetermined text

size an on ordinary paper. Deluxe Type shall mean that the customer can select various conditions for printing and binding including binding size such as B5 or A4, font style and text size, paper and cover material, and cover type (various different covers can be selected). Thus, this type can be used to freely select the format for printing and binding.

The (3) Retrieval Keyboard is configured to retrieve abstracts of various products filed in the (15) Database. The abstracts are retrieved according to the key operations implemented by the customer. The (6) Operations Instruction Keyboard is configured to operate by key operations implemented by the customer to instruct the selection of either the Standard Type or the Deluxe Type, to instruct the operations of the (14) High Speed Printer and of the (13) Binding Device, and to instruct the selection of various conditions of the previously described Deluxe Type mode. In place of keyboards (3) and (6), a touch panel menu method can be used to enable touch by finger on the display to select various conditions. This method simplifies operations on the screen as well as inputs by the customer.

High-speed printers and binding devices already on the market can be used with appropriate modifications for the (14) High Speed Printer and the (13) Binding Device used in the printing and binding function. However, a laser printer is ideal for the (14) High Speed Printer. The binding operation is implemented via three processes including attaching a cover to the sides and back, compressing the product, and drying, after which a jacket is attached. Thus, a binding device that operates in this manner is ideal for the (13) Binding Device.

Next, operations will be explained while referring to Figure 3.

Step 1, the (10) CPU determines whether or not currency was input into the (1) Currency Input Slot. Step 2, if the CPU verifies that currency was input, the CPU then determines if there is an abstract selection input signal from the (3) Retrieval Keyboard. Step 3, if there is an input signal, the abstract corresponding to the said input signal is called from the (15) Database, and the CPU sends a command to display this abstract on the (4) Display Device. The customer then reads the displayed abstract. If he or she desires to create a book form, the customer then inputs binding instructions via the (6) Operation Instructions Keyboard. Step 4, the (10) CPU determines whether or not the binding instructions were input.

Step 11, if the CPU determines that binding instructions were not input, it sends instructions for exact money calculations by the (11) Currency Calculator of the money already inserted. Step 12, the CPU determines if there is any monetary change resulting from the exact money calculations. Step 13, if there is change, that change is output through the (9) Change Return Slot in accordance with commands from the (10) CPU. If there is no change, operations are completed.

On the other hand, if the CPU determines that binding instructions were input, the CPU then determines whether or not Standard Type binding instructions were given (Step 5). If not, the CPU determines whether or not Deluxe Type binding instructions were given (Step 14).

If the (10) CPU determines that Standard Type binding instructions were input (YES at Step 5), the (10) CPU calls the Standard Type printing and binding fees necessary for creating a book of the said abstract from the (15) Database file, and sends out a command to display these fees on the (5) Printing and Binding Fee Display. According to this command, the Standard Type printing and binding fees are displayed on the (5) Printing and Binding Fee Display (Step 6). On the other hand, the recently input money is displayed on the (2) Input Currency Display. The customer then looks at the amounts shown on both displays (2) and (5) and determines if additional funds are needed. If insufficient funds, the customer then inputs additional funds into the (1) Currency Input Slot.

The (10) CPU also determines any excess or insufficient funds for printing and binding fees (Step 7). If the CPU determines that there are sufficient funds, the (10) CPU sends a start command to the (14) High Speed Printer for printing the said abstract, and the (14) High Speed Printer starts (Step 8). After the (10) CPU detects that printing is completed, the CPU sends a drive signal to the (13) Binding Device for binding the printed product. Based on this signal, the (13) Binding Device binds the printed material and forms a (7) Book (Step 9). When the (10) CPU detects that binding is completed, it sends out a command

to output the said book from the (8) Book Output Slot, and thus, the (7) Book is output through the (8) Book Output Slot (Step 10).

After the (10) CPU sends the output command for the (7) Book, the CPU then implements an exact calculation of money and determines change as described above in Steps 11 through 13. If change exists, the (10) CPU sends a command to output the change from the (9) Change Return Slot.

On the other hand, if the (10) CPU determines in Step 14 that binding instructions for Deluxe Type binding are present, the CPU sends a command to the (6) Operation Instruction Keyboard for accepting condition instructions (format instructions) for Deluxe Type printing and binding. With this command, conditions can be input for Deluxe Type from the (6) Operation Instructions Keyboard (Step 15). When the (10) CPU detects that the customer has finished inputting the desired conditions, the (10) CPU calls up the fees necessary for printing and binding the product that meets the Deluxe Type printing and binding conditions input by the customer. These fees are called from the files in the (15) database. The CPU then sends a command to display these fees on the (5) Printing and Binding Fee Display (Step 6). If the customer has not input sufficient funds to meet the Deluxe Type printing and binding fees displayed on the (5) Display, he or she can then input additional funds.

When the (10) CPU determines that the input funds are sufficient for the Deluxe Type printing and binding (YES on Step 7), Steps 8 through 13 as described previously are implemented based on commands from the (10) CPU, and the said abstract is bound as a Deluxe Type book and output. Once the book is output, if change exists, that change is output through the (9) Change Return Slot, as described before.

Also, after the (10) CPU has determined that binding instruction are present in Step 4, if the (10) CPU then determines that there are no instructions for either Standard Type or Deluxe Type (NO at Step 5, NO at Step 14), exact money calculations are made and change returned based on commands by the (10) CPU (Steps 11 through 13). This completes operations.

The above working example is based on the use of software processing with a microprocessor. However, this invention is not limited to this design. For example, the processes could also be implemented using a dedicated hard-wired logic LSI circuit.

4. Simple Explanation of Diagrams

Figure 1 is an outline diagram of one working example of the automatic binding vending machine of this invention. Figure 2 is a block diagram showing the configuration of the vending machine shown in Figure 1. Figure 3 is a flow chart used for explaining the vending machine operations shown in Figures 1 and 2.

1 - Currency Input Slot, 2—Input Currency Display, 3 - Retrieval Keyboard, 4 - Display Device, 5 - Printing and Binding Fee Display, 6 - Operation Instruction Keyboard, 7 - Book, 8 - Book Output Slot, 9 - Change Return Slot, 10 - Microprocessor (CPU), 11 - Currency Calculator, 12 - Output Mechanism, 13 - Binding Device, 14 - High Speed Printer, 15 - Database.

Patent Applicant: Tateishi Electric Co. Agent: Tetsuji Iwakura, Patent Attorney



Figure 1

- 1. Currency Input Slot
- Input Currency Display
 Retrieval Keyboard
- 4. Display Device
- 5. Printing and Binding Fee Display
 6. Operation Instruction Keyboard
- 7. Book
- 8. Book Output Slot

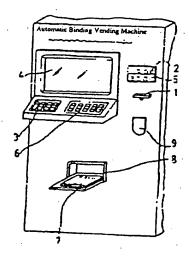
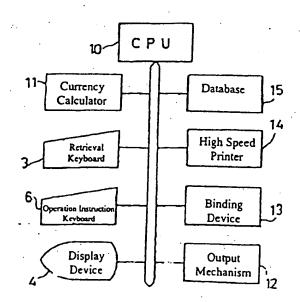


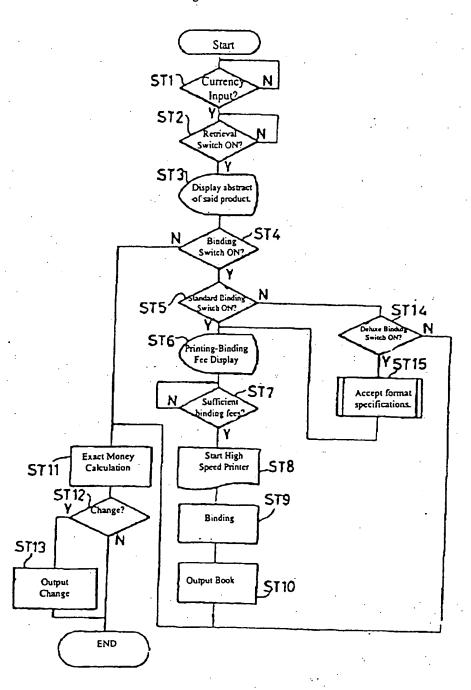
Figure 2





a talka a tau kawai kadhata saharaya sa sa sayaka salah sa saha sa sa sa talka sa sakang salah ja

Figure 3



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平成15年 2月18日

特許庁長官殿

- 事件の表示
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❷発明の名称 自動製本販売機

> **2049** 图 昭59-219149

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1. 発明の名称

2. 特許請求の範囲

小規、競革あるいは自収伝等各種の作品の書誌 的事項を含む全文とそのアプストラクトから成る 文字画集質相データがファイルされたデータペー スと、

データペースから所望のアプストラクトを検索 し、これをディスプレイ西面上に表示する検索手 別と、

検索手段を介して検索・表示されたアプストラ クトの作品の印刷・製本指示と印刷・製本時の類 条件を入力指示するための操作指示手段と、

操作算示手段からの指示信号を受けて当該作品: を前記は条件通りに印刷し、これを製木する印刷 ・製木手段と、

印刷・智本手段を介して製木された貨幣を放出 -する書籍放出手段と、

前記各察成長清を制卸する制即手段に選架して

設けた貨幣投入口とを勤え、

この貨幣投入口へ所定代金を投入することによ りディスプレイ面面上に表示されたアプストラク トの作品を書籍化して自動販売することを特徴と する、自動製木匠売號。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

(発明の技術分野)

本規明は、自動販売機システムの一環としての 白勇製本販売機であつて、より詳細には、ディス プレイ画面上に表示される小説、輪虹あるいは自 収伝等各種の作品のアプストラクトを顕容が読み ながら、所望の作品を選択し、次いで、印刷・製 本等の提示を与えると、当該作品がその投示通り 印刷・製本され、銀幣として放出されてくるよう にした自動製木販売機に関する。

(発明の食品)

近年、国民の科野は、目覚ましい技術革新と前 報社会の選馬とが相換つて、基礎的・適一的なも のから感化と多様性におんだ切点的・異性的・自 己衷現的消費へと発展する傾向にある。既に密節

特開昭61-97795 (2)

の購入等において、狭者暦にその傾向が顕著に現れている。かたや、印刷技術及びコンピュータのデータベースによる文書質権・イメージ資程等 質料管理技術の連點が目覚ましい。

そこで、前記印明技術と資料管理技術を巧みに、他合せて、単性と多様性に対した技術であるように に合った実施を、その場で製本販売できるように した技績が、店頭や街頭のあちこちに出現し、一 取の設督受好なが気軽にこの複数配を白由に利用 し得る状態にあれば、極めて便益であり、知的生 質の自上に役立つこと明らかである。この最後置 の単期の目的〉

本見明は上述したような事情に貼みなされたもので、脳容が、所定代金を投入後、所望の検索キーを押圧すると、その検索キーに対応した作品のアプストラクトがディスプレイ図面上に表示され、このアプストラクトを扱んで製本を希望する脳容は、次に所望の操作指示キーを押圧する。すると 数示過りに当該アプストラクトの作品が印刷・観

とする.

更に本発明によれば、印刷・製木時の助条件、 つまり景英タイプの書質化に必要な、例えば85 版・A4版等の製本サイズ、文字の資体やその大 ささ、用紙及び表紙の材質及び表紙の相類等の指 条件を、類容別で選択して入力できるので、 面本のようである。 のニーズに合致した意味版の書籍化が可能であっ て、例えばおはサイズの統一された教育として別 入でき、姓に最適定の最高の保管・整理に対する 物果が大きい。 本されて、各項の状態で放出されてくるようにした、白駒製本販売機を提供することを目的とする。 《発明の構成と効果》

上記目的を達成するために、本発明は、小説。 鍵準あるいは自収伝等各種の作品の裏法的事項を 含な全文とそのアプストラクトから成る文字面及 質報データがフアイルされたデータベースと、デ ータペースから所望のアプストラクトを検索し、 これをデイスプレイ西面上に表示する検索手段と、 技术手段を介して技术・表示されたアプストラク トの作品の印刷・製本指示と印刷・製木匠の指条 件を入力指示するための操作指示手段と、操作指 示手段からの指示信号を受けて 当該作品を前記数 条件通りに印刷し、これを製本する印刷・製水手 段と、印刷・製本手段を介して製木された銀箔を 放出する直接放出手及と、前記各項及契索を誘拐 する制御手段に連繋して設けた貨幣投入口とを設 え、この貨幣投入口へ所定代金を投入することに よりデイスプレイ資质上に表示されたアプストラ クトの作品を書籍化して自動販売することを特位

《発明の実施別》

第1回は本発明に係る自動製木板売機の一変流 例を示す概略的接客面の斜视図である。第1回に おいて、顕客が貨幣(抵幣及びノ又は便貨)投入 ロ1へ貨幣を投入すると、その投入金割が投入金 製炭示能2に表示さる。この表示を視疑した技、 検禁ポード3を返当に操作すると、その提作に対 応して、℃RT等のディスプレイ装置4の画面上 に、例えば小説。簡単あるいは白钗伝等各様の作 昂のアプストラクトが表示される。そして、製太 推示を与えると、当故アプストラクトに係る作品 の印刷・製本代金の金額が、印刷・製木代金表示 あらに表示される。これらの表示を通じて、助き は各種の作品の契旨とその印刷・製水代金を知る ことができる。そこで、所望の作品の粗雑化を並 望した場合、当時作品の印刷・関本代金を製足す る追加料金を貨幣投入口1へ投入する。この途加 料金と先に投入した投入企の合約額が投入金額表 示な2に表示される。この合併組が前記印刷・別 本代金を寄足していることを取扱した後、操作指

特開昭61-97795 (3)

京主・ボード6を選当に操作すると、開示通りに、 当該作品が印料・製木され、異葉7の状態で男籍 故以口8に放出される。尚、投入金額より精算結 果生じた對鉄は、約鉄放出口8へ放出される。

データペース15には、例えば小説、随節あるいは自収伝等各種の作品の由誌的事項(類名。若者名等)を含む全文とそのアプストラクトから成

印刷・製本手段としての高速プリンク装置14及び製本装置13は、提来設知のものを適宜改変して用いることもできるが、高速プリンタ装置 14としては、レーザプリンタ装置等が好適であり、又、製本装置13としては、へり部及び背部の装留操作から表記づけ、圧縮、乾燥の各工程を軽て装丁を行い、その後ジャケットの装着を行う

本文字面数質相データと、各作品を投送ののでかり でで印刷・製本してお籍に受けるに要けると、 のでででの別本してお籍に要けるに要けるインでに のででであるに要けるに要けるは、 のでであるに要けるは、 のでであるに要けるは、 のでであるに要けるは、 のでであるに、 のでは、 のでは

ここに、類単タイプとは、通常の紙質の用紙に 予められた文字の大きさ、文字の遺体をで 引きれ、予め走められたサイズと普通のの観点が予めまります。 取本される所属印刷・製菓タイプとは、あり取る では、一般であるので、で のので、のでは、 のので、 の

ようにした装置が好速である。

次に第3因に示すフローチャートを参照しなが ら、動作について説明する。

ここで製本程示の入力がないと判断した場合は、 先の投入金額を料金組度研算部11で料金額算す



特開昭 61- 97795 (4)

不足が生じていれば追加料金を日常投入口1へ投入する。

為、CPU10は、實際7の放出指令を発した 後、前記したと同様に、ST11乃至ST13で 料金額等と約銭の有無の利斯を行い、約銭がある 場合には、これを約銭放出口9へ放出すべく符合 を出す。

一方、ST14でCPU10が炭準タイプの製・

べく指令を出し(ST11)、料金和口の粘果、 的数の発生があつたか否かをST12で判断し、 的数の発生があればこの的数をCPU10の紹令 に基づいて的核放出口9へ放出し(ST13)、 的数の発生がなければ、動作は検了する。

一方、製本招示の入力があったと判断した場合には、次に標準タイプの製本招示があったか否か(ST5)又は、深草タイプの製本招示があったがあった。

そこで、CPU10分別である。 の10分別では、CPU10分別である。 でと、CPU10分別では、CPUでは、CPUでは、CPUでは、CPOのでは、C

そして、役入金額が前記祭草タイプの印刷・製木代金を満足していることをCPU10が判断すると(ST7のYES)、前述したと四様に、CPU10の旧名に及づき、ST8乃至ST13の処理がなされ、当該アプストラクトの作品が発布クィブのお賞に製本されて設出される。この場合

権庫の結果、約銭が生じた時はこの約銭を約銭板 出口9へ放出することも、前記したと関係である。

また、ST4で製本剤示ありと判断した後、気体タイプ及び禁尿タイプの製本剤示がない(ST5のNO、ST14のNO)とCPU10が判断した場合は、CPU10の間合に超づき精育処理と的銭処理がなされ(ST11万至ST13)、動作が核了する。

尚、上記実施民はマイクロプロセツサによるソフトウエア処理を用いたものであるが、この発明はこれに設定されるものではなく、例えば、LS 「化した専用のハードワイヤードロジック回路によっても実施することができることは勿論である。

第1回は木丸町に係る自動製木販売機の一実施 例を示す機略的接客頭の封視図、第2回は第1図 に示した販売機の構成を示すプロック圏、第3回 は第1回及び第2回に示した販売機の動作を設明 するためのフローチャートである。

1 … 資素投入口、2 … 投入企机表示部、3 … 核

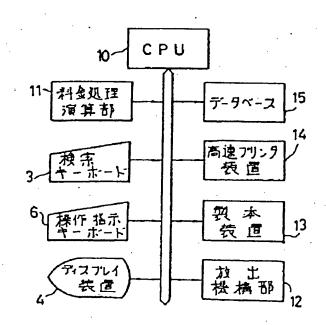
特開昭 G1- 97795 (5)

まキーボード、4 …ディスプレイ装置、5 … 印刷・製本代金 表示 あ、6 … 操作 指示キーボード、7 … B 質、8 … 書籍放出口、9 … 的 銭放出口、10 … マイクロプロセッサ(CPU)、11 … 料金処理演算部、12 … 放出 競誘部、13 … 製木技・食、14 … 高速プリンタ装置、15 … データベース。

特許出頭人 立石或蜘蛛式会社 代理人 弁理士 岩倉哲二(他1名)

1…貨幣投入口 2・投入金額表示部 3・投幣ヤーボート・ 4・ディフナレイ校園 5・印刷・関本代金表示部 6・操作指示ヤーボート・ 3 7・奮船 8・書籍权出口

第 2 図



特開昭 61- 97795 (6)

